



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 240-8101

Gloria Molina
First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

May 19, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**BOARD RESOLUTION NOT TO PROVIDE STIPENDS TO MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER GOVERNING BOARD**
(All Districts) (3 Votes)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the attached Resolution that prohibits the County of Los Angeles from providing stipends to any member of the Community Health Center Board (CHCB), for the purpose of complying with the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) policy of precluding compensation to members of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike governing board.

PURPOSE OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

In order to approve the pending County application for FQHC Look-Alike status for three of the Comprehensive Health Centers, HRSA is requesting that the County prohibit the provision of stipends to CHCB members. Because such stipends are currently permitted by ordinance, the resolution would express the Board's intention not to exercise its authority to award such payments.

JUSTIFICATION

Prior to submission of the County's application for FQHC Look-Alike designation in December 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance creating the CHCB in order to meet the governance requirements for FQHC Look-Alike designation. Section 3.77.040 of the ordinance states, "upon further action by the Board of Supervisors, members of the CHCB may, at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, receive a stipend for participation in CHCB meetings." In a May 3, 2005 letter to the Department of Health Services, HRSA indicated that it is not appropriate for CHCB members to receive stipends and directed the County to delete the language that may provide for the stipends from the ordinance. Subsequent discussions with HRSA indicated that they would accept a resolution. This resolution seeks to satisfy HRSA's requirement through the prohibition of stipends to CHCB members.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

None.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

FQHC Look-Alike status would enhance Medicare and Medi-Cal reimbursement to the Comprehensive Health Centers after the termination of the 1115 Waiver Extension. Although not strictly required by regulation, HRSA has taken a policy position against compensating FQHC governing board members for their services. It is not usual to provide stipends to County commissioners; accordingly, the Department believes that it is appropriate to comply with HRSA's request. However, HRSA has not objected to, nor would the resolution preclude the County from reimbursing members of the CHCB for actual expenses incurred in participating on the CHCB, including travel and child care expense.

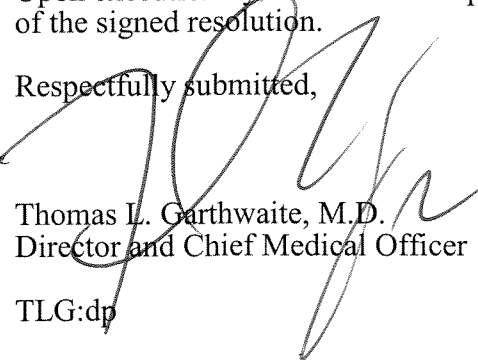
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This document is required to achieve FQHC Look-Alike designation.

CONCLUSION

Upon execution by the Board of Supervisors, the Department requests the original and one copy of the signed resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

TLG:dp

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

WHEREAS, the federal government does not think it appropriate for entities that receive Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike designation to provide stipends to members of their governing board;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors intends for the Community Health Center Board to act as the governing body for the County operated clinics which receive FQHC Look-Alike designation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles that: stipends will not be provided to members of the Community Health Center Governing Board.

The foregoing resolution was passed on ____ day of _____, 2005 adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorizes for which said Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive
Officer of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

APPROVED AS TO FORM
BY COUNTY COUNSEL:

RAYMOND G. FORTNER

By _____
Deputy